

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A mattress assembly constructed substantially of plastic material, comprising:

a mattress foundation comprising:

a generally planar and essentially rigid top surface having an upper side and a lower side; and

at least one essentially rigid sidewall, having a lower edge; the sidewall extending substantially along [[the]] a perimeter of the lower side of the top surface, depending downward from the top surface, defining a cavity, wherein an outer surface of the sidewall includes a pattern integrally formed with the sidewall;

and

a frame assembly comprising a plurality of ground support members supporting the foundation, depending downward from the lower edge of the at least one sidewall, holding the foundation above ground, and maintaining the top surface in a substantially horizontal orientation.
2. (currently amended) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the pattern is substantially planar and has a visual three-dimensional appearance.
3. (original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the pattern is substantially three-dimensional.
4. (original) The assembly of claim 1, including a headboard tangentially extending vertically along one end of the foundation.

5. (original) The assembly of claim 4, wherein the headboard is made of substantially plastic material.
6. (currently amended) The assembly of claim 5, wherein an outer surface of the headboard [[,]] includes a pattern integrally formed with the headboard.
7. (original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein a pattern is formed on at least a portion of the upper side of the top surface.
8. (original) The assembly of claim 1, including at least one ground support member.
9. (original) The assembly of claim 8, wherein the ground support is made of substantially plastic material.
10. (currently amended) The assembly of claim 9, wherein an outer surface of the ground support includes a pattern integrally formed with the ground support.

Add new claims 11 - 20:

11. (New) A mattress foundation constructed substantially of plastic material, comprising:

a generally planar and essentially rigid top surface having an upper side and a lower side; and

at least one essentially rigid sidewall extending substantially along a perimeter of the lower side of the top surface and having an outer surface

including a pattern integrally formed with the sidewall, said pattern causing the outer surface to have the appearance of a three-dimensional relief surface.

12. (New) The mattress foundation of claim 11, wherein the pattern is substantially planar and simulates the three-dimensional appearance.
13. (New) The mattress foundation of claim 11, wherein the pattern is substantially three-dimensional.
14. (New) A method of manufacturing a mattress foundation, comprising:

forming a generally planar and essentially rigid top surface having an upper side and a lower side;

disposing along a perimeter of the lower side of the top surface at least one essentially rigid sidewall; and

integrally forming a pattern on an outer surface of the sidewall, said pattern causing the outer surface to have the appearance of a three-dimensional relief surface.
15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein disposing the rigid sidewall along the perimeter includes molding the top surface and the rigid sidewall with the pattern as a unitary piece.
16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein molding includes at least one of injection-molding, gas-assisted injection molding, vacuum molding, low-pressure molding, and blow-molding.
17. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein integrally forming the pattern includes forming a substantially planar pattern that has a visual three-dimensional appearance.

18. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein integrally forming the pattern includes forming a substantially three-dimensional pattern.
19. (New) The method of claim 14, further comprising

providing a frame assembly depending downward from a lower edge of the at least one sidewall, said frame assembly holding the mattress foundation above ground, and maintaining the top surface in a substantially horizontal orientation.
20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein providing the frame assembly includes integrally forming the frame assembly with the mattress foundation.